

STATE TREASURY.

Senate Committee Will Investigate Its Condition.

AND SOME DISCREPANCIES

Not Easily Reconciled With the Declared Balance of \$238,000 to the Credit of the State Fund--The School Book Question Likely to be Taken Away From the Legislature--The Measure to Form the New County of Augusta Will be Reopened in the House--The Friends of the Bill Have Further Documentary Evidence.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 24.--The senate part of the joint committee to ascertain the true condition of the state treasury, having been appointed, the work is to begin at once. It is not expected to show that the treasury has been plundered. There are some discrepancies not easily reconciled with the declared balance of \$238,000 to the credit of the state fund, and it is thought well to know just what is the condition of the treasury on the eve of the state administration passing into the hands of another party. The examination will be as thorough as the available time will allow.

Senator Caldwell's bill to regulate cycling is going through the senate at a two forty rail. It requires the cyclist to dismount if it appears that his wheel is likely to frighten a horse. It requires just what a careful wheelman always does without compulsion of law. All the same it is arousing the brethren. Doubts are expressed as to the constitutionality of the measure; also whether it will become a law.

For some reason the battle of the books has not opened. The forces are not gathering fast, and the programme of the book men is not revealed. Meanwhile there is a growing sentiment in favor of taking the selection of school books away from the legislature and handing it over to the state board of education. The most thoughtful men in the legislature agree that that body should not be asked to do this work.

The house committee having resolved to report without recommendation the bill to form Augusta county, the friends of the measure hope to have the case reopened by the committee so that they may make further documentary evidence. They desire to show among other things that Marion county will be left with more than 400 square miles, and that the new county will have more than the area required by the constitution. Fairmont has not yet appeared on the ground, but is expected to take a hand in the fight.

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS.

Matters That Will Occupy the Attention of Both Houses This Week.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24.--The most interesting feature of the house programme for the coming week, unless the Nicaragua canal bill should receive consideration, which, in view of the recent complications, seems improbable, will be the fight against conference report on the immigration bill. Mr. Bartholdt, of Missouri, who made an ineffectual attempt to prevent the bill from going to conference, will lead the opposition to the bill as agreed on by the conference. There seems to be little doubt that the friends of the measure will be triumphant in the end, as the sentiment in favor of an immigration bill in the house, as shown by the votes on previous occasions, is a strong majority. Nevertheless, Mr. Bartholdt proposes to do it in the senate, to defeat the conference report. Two appropriation bills, the agriculture and Indian, will probably consume the remainder of the week. There are some features of both bills which may cause considerable debate. Such time as can be spared will be given to the bankruptcy bill before the week ends. Tomorrow, under the rules, is District of Columbia day.

The senate programme this week is rendered very uncertain by the condition of the Nicaragua canal bill. What measure out of the calendar will be taken up will probably be given the right of way early in the week, but even with the road cleared to the extent of the removal of the Nicaragua bill it is not probable that any headway would be made with the bankruptcy bill before the week ends. It is the special order for Monday.

The time of the senate after 3 o'clock Monday will be devoted to eulogies upon the late Speaker Crisp, and the time previous to that hour after the disposal of the routine morning session will be consumed in discussing the Cameron resolution. The speech may be broken in upon at 2 o'clock by a contention for precedence between the friends of the Nicaragua bill and the supporters of the bankruptcy bill, but if it is likely that the content will be postponed to a later convenient season.

It is known that Senator Turpie will take advanced ground favorable to Cuban recognition, and it is hinted that he will take occasion to criticize Mr. Olney's position sharply. Mr. Turpie's speech may prove to be the first of new ground on the Cuban question, but the committee on foreign relations is manifesting no disposition to press the resolutions to a vote.

Tuesday Senator Chandler expects to secure a vote on his bill providing for the registration of the committee on international monetary conference. There will be several short speeches and more or less running debate on this measure, but it is believed that all substantial amendments will be voted down and the bill passed before the close of the day set for its consideration. Senator Cameron has a substitute requiring this government to take the initiative in calling a conference, which may give the movers of the original bill more or less trouble.

The bankruptcy bill will be debated at considerable length, which will leave Senator George, its special champion, as reported to the senate, is absent from the city.

Senator Morgan will make a strenuous effort to prevent the Nicaragua canal bill from losing its place as the unfinished business of the senate, and it is believed that he will submit amendments which will meet the demands of those who hold that the bill requires further work by committee in view of the new position of Nicaragua as developed by Senator Rodriguez' letter. The senate will take the position that the committee has not reported, and that it should not be voted upon and not sent back to committee.

Senator-elect Kenney, of Delaware, may present his credentials during the week, but not until after the committee on privileges and elections, which is to meet Thursday, shall have passed upon the Dupont petition and the Adickes credentials.

SENATOR GEORGE ILL.

He is Suffering From Heart Failure, and Not Expected to Recover.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24.--United States Senator James S. George, of Mississippi, is dangerously ill from heart failure at the Garfield hospital in this city and owing to his advanced age, his friends are very apprehensive of the outcome. Two grandchildren, Miss Hemingway and Mr. George, his private secretary, are with him, while his daughter, Mrs. Henderson, and his sons have been summoned to his bedside from their home in Mississippi. For some months the senator has been suffering from this same trouble and he was unable to be in Washington at the opening of Congress in December.

Less than three weeks ago while still very ill he came to the city and at once placed himself under the care of Dr. Bernhart, who, with Dr. Fry, advised him to go to the hospital for treatment. He has been there since that time. His condition not showing satisfactory improvement a consultation was held yesterday between the two physicians and Dr. Osler, Professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and the conclusion reached that the senator's condition was very serious and that his condition will require the greatest care and most skilled treatment. To-day he was unimproved though he rested quietly. Senator George's ill-health is due to his advanced age, accelerated by years of hard and constant work. The senator's wife is in Mississippi. Owing to an attack of paralysis she will not be able to come to Washington.

Senator George, who is now in his seventy-first year, has served as a member of the United States senate for nearly sixteen years and the term for which he was elected expires March 3, 1899. He was a gallant soldier in the Mexican and civil wars (serving on the Confederate side), and is a well-known lawyer. He held important judicial positions in his state prior to his election to the senate.

An Ex-Royal Visitor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24.--With the exception of the time during which she attended divine services at Queen Liliuokalani, of Hawaii, remained in her apartments at the Shoreham to-day. This morning, accompanied by her Hawaiian attendants, she attended St. John's Episcopal church within a block of the hotel. United States treasurer Morgan was the only caller on her majesty during the day and he came to pay his respects and to invite the queen to inspect the gold and silver vaults in the treasury building.

Grafton's New Bank Building.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

GRAFTON, W. Va., Jan. 24.--The First National bank, of which Hon. Thomas E. Davis is president, and M. L. Mallonee, cashier, has completed its new building and had an "opening" yesterday afternoon and last night, to which the public was invited. The building is situated at the junction of Main and Latrobe streets, and is one of the handsomest bank buildings in the state. The building was beautifully lighted up last night and crowded with admiring spectators, who were received and shown about by the officers and directors. The citizens generally here are proud of this latest and splendid addition to Grafton, which is a monument to the progress of this rapidly and substantially growing little city.

National Convention of Manufacturers.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 24.--Vice President Egan and other delegates from the Ohio Valley to the convention of the National Association of Manufacturers at Philadelphia this week leave to-morrow on a special Pennsylvania train composed entirely of Pullman cars. Among the delegates generally here are Charles Davis and Robert McGowan, who went to Mexico nearly a year ago for the association as a committee of investigation into trade conditions there. They will make their first report at the annual convention in Philadelphia this week.

To Elevate Their Race.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.--A number of prominent colored people of this city and to-day organized "The Civic League of the State of Illinois." The object of the league is to get the moral support of the north to enable the league to educate its kindred in the south, and to endeavor to get trades unions to raise the bar they have placed against the colored man. The league expects to make the members of their race respected by the white people in the communities in which they live.

Counterfeiters Caught.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.--Henry Barnard and wife, Charlotte, were arrested to-day at their home in Forty-fourth street and committed to jail in default of \$5,000, charged by United States secret service agents with counterfeiting silver coins. Secret service agent Bagg says that Barnard is an expert counterfeiter and that he has been passing his worthless coins in small shops on the West Side for several weeks. His imitations of United States coins were so good, said Mr. Bagg, that Barnard had no scruples in passing the counterfeiters in the same stores over and over again.

Lynched for His Crime.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 24.--A special to the Citizen from Tallahassee, Fla., says: Pierce Taylor, a young negro, who attempted an assault upon Miss Emma Anthon last Sunday night, was taken from the jail last night by a mob and hanged to a tree in the jail yard. Taylor had confessed the crime. Early this morning a mob of about a dozen men, most of them negroes, went to the jail and at the point of a revolver secured from the cook the keys to the outer gate of the jail. Other doors were broken through with sledge hammers and cold chisels until the negro was secured. This was the first lynching that has ever occurred in this county.

Big Find of Bones.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.--A special to the Press from West Point, N. Y., says: Bones by the hundred have been unearthed right under the offices club rooms. They are all human bones in good condition, but nobody knows when they were placed on how they got there. It might have been half a century ago, but the probabilities are, century ago, but the stories told by old residents that they are the bones of soldiers killed in the Revolutionary war. It is known that spies and Tories hanged on the plains were buried by the patriots where the mess hall now stands.

Minister Will's Remains.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 24.--The remains of the late Minister to Hawaii, Hon. Albert B. Willis, reached here at 5 o'clock this evening via the Pennsylvania railroad after a long journey from Hawaii. Mrs. Willis, with her sister, Mrs. Mary Dulany, Albert S. Willis, Jr., and Col. James Tucker, of San Francisco, accompanied the remains. The funeral will take place Tuesday morning at Cave Hill cemetery, in this city.

ARE NEAR HAVANA.

The Cuban Army Has Been Fighting in That Vicinity.

THE FALL OF SANTA CLARA

Is Confirmed--Spanish Troops Number Nearly 200,000, but the Fighting Material is Below Par--Both Sides Conducting a System of Guerrilla Warfare, and the Country Will Soon be Reduced to Barbarism--General Weyler Conducting Operations in the Province of Matanzas. Many Skirmishes Reported.

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 24.--Various travellers just arriving from Cuba confirm the capture of Santa Clara by the Cubans, and also bring news that the insurgents have been fighting in the near vicinity of Havana, and, a few days ago, wrecked a passenger train within two miles of that city. Two young Englishmen, direct from Cuba, Harry E. York and Lee A. Hervey, have reached this city after having passed several weeks in Cuba, with the insurgent army part of the time and the remainder in the field with the Spanish troops. Hervey has received a shot through the left arm. They are preparing a report for Senator Cameron, which will be forwarded to Washington in a few days. The Cubans are not in want of men, but money, ammunition and medicine. There are not over 25,000 Cubans, while the Spaniards and volunteers now number 235,000 men, mostly very young, and not good fighting material.

All operations are in the nature of guerrilla warfare and both sides are systematically burning plantations and the country will be reduced to barbarism. The Cubans are relying on being favored by McKinley and expect immediately on his inauguration he will recognize their belligerence, if not their independence.

Hervey gives a graphic account of the capture of Santa Clara by the insurgents, where the utmost gallantry was displayed, and the Spaniards being overcome by the magnificent valor of the patriots. Hervey said it was told him in the Cuban camp that Maceo had his lower jaw shot away, but was alive and recuperating.

General Gomez is not treating for peace and although there is a peace party among the Cubans, it is a small one. The capture of the town of Agutec by the Cubans was a brilliant piece of work. Three thousand Spaniards held the place, but the Cubans showed better generalship.

At Santa Clara the Cubans took and held the town just long enough to ruin it. Hervey does not consider there is any decided prospect of victory for either side. Earthquakes continue in the state of Oaxaca and that city has been shaken severely by the trepidatory shock. Scientists believe a volcano is forming among the hills of the coasted seismic districts, while on the Pacific coast the ocean is in continual commotion caused by submarine explosions, sending huge waves on the shore and terrifying fishermen who still boldly venture out.

WEYLER RESUMES

His March on the Province of Matanzas. A Number of Skirmishes.

HAVANA, Jan. 24.--Captain-General Weyler was encamped last night at Bolondren in Matanzas province, and this morning he continued his march.

A number of skirmishes have occurred in Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces, the Spanish columns fighting a number of insurgent bands and taking their camps with four prefectures, arms, effects and documents. The insurgents left thirty-seven killed, among them being three prefects, and lost four prisoners who were immediately court-martialed. The Spanish lost three killed and two officers and twenty-six soldiers wounded.

On January 22 the insurgents attacked the village of Balmes, Havana province, six of the residents being wounded. The battalion of the Jaruco district, and has gathered in nine hundred cattle. Colonel De Bosch, during a reconnaissance at Jaca, in Pinar del Rio province, destroyed two hundred huts and brought in twenty-seven families to the town. Six insurgents were killed. The report heretofore circulated, that the insurgents had dynamited and burned the magnificent tobacco plantation of San Lino, in the district of Cienfuegos, is untrue.

Lieutenant-Colonel Diaz Vilear, with the three hundred of the battalion Espana and a local guerrilla force of forty men under Lieutenant Mendez, set out from Memagua, near Havana, and at the farm of Volcan, met an insurgent band. The guerrilla force attacked the insurgents, and in a hand-to-hand fight Lieutenant Mendez was killed. Three of the guerrillas were seriously wounded. The insurgents did not await the coming of the column, but when it arrived upon their position it was found that they had left behind a large number of dead and many wounded. The column had one soldier killed, and the captain, two lieutenants and five soldiers wounded. Colonel Vilear also received bullets.

SPANISH DEFEATED

By Insurgent Troops Under Command of Col. Hernandez.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 24.--The Commercial-Tribune's special from Key West, Fla., says: Another defeat for the Spanish is reported from Pinaros in the southern part of Havana province. The place has one thousand inhabitants, is well fortified and has a Spanish garrison of six hundred men with one field piece. Lieutenant Colonel Hernandez in command of five hundred insurgent cavalrymen made a dash at the town Monday afternoon, while the troops were at the church celebrating some local holiday. Before they could form the insurgents had possession of the block house and church and before the Spanish were hardly aware of what was the trouble, solid shot came hurling through its walls, while cries of "Cuba Libre" filled the air. Out they rushed only to fall before a deadly volley from a strong force posted behind the church. Colonel Munio, the Spanish officer, bravely rallied his men, but as they formed for a charge he fell with a dozen balls through him. The second in command took his place, but he, too, fell in a few seconds. The sharpshooters of Hernandez dealing death shots with such rapidity that made the Spaniards panic-stricken. They made one more

attempt to charge the block house, but Hernandez cavalry reserve dashed at them, sweeping through their ranks, cutting a bloody path with their sharp machettes. They turned and again they came through the crowded ranks of the Spanish carrying death in their tracks. Though the cries of the Spanish troops, the Spanish then retired, it being a rout, though a portion stubbornly protected their rear, making stands until forced to retire by Hernandez's fierce charges. After pursuing them nearly to Cagala on the coast of Hernandez, they withdrew. They burned the fort at Palanca. The insurgents secured four hundred stand of arms, one cannon, \$1,000 in gold and \$5,000 paper money, beside ammunition and many valuable papers belonging to the Spanish commissary department. Spanish officials charged with the defeat Tuesday night, but have kept it suppressed and the palace officials say that the place has been "evacuated."

To be Tried in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 24.--It is expected that General Carlos Roloff, secretary of war of the Cuban provisional government and Dr. Jose J. Luis, a compatriot, will be brought to Baltimore to be tried in the United States court upon the charges of fitting out and sending some Baltimore a filibustering expedition upon the steamer Woodall. The determination to remove the case to Baltimore for trial was made at the suggestion of Attorney-General Harmon, who was of the opinion that as the Woodall had been captured here, been fitted out here and started from here, the trial should occur here instead of New York.

Why Don't He Disperse Them?

MADRID, Jan. 24.--The reported attempt of the insurgents in Cuba to capture Captain-General Weyler is declared here to be unfounded. According to a Havana dispatch, Captain-General Weyler declared that there are only a few rebels left in Havana and Matanzas provinces and that they can easily be dispersed.

McKINLEY'S SUNDAY

Spent in Doors--Cold Weather Don't Keep Visitors Away, Though.

CANTON, O., Jan. 24.--With the mercury hovering near zero out of doors all day and the earth shrouded in a deep covering of snow, caught up by flurries of wind and hurried into the faces of pedestrians, the McKinleys found their home the most comfortable place for them to-day and there they remained except for a few moments of morning worship, when the major attended services at the First Methodist Episcopal church. He was accompanied to and from the church by his old Canton friend Josiah Hartzell, and Alex H. Revell, of Cuyahoga, who was a guest at the McKinley house during the day. A number of callers were present, but there was little of political significance in the day's doings. R. R. Ross Appleton and Walter Attenbury, of Brooklyn, were among those who called. It is understood that they are here to make arrangements for a Brooklyn delegation which expects to come here today a good word for Congressman Francis H. Wilson, of Brooklyn, for a cabinet position.

B'NAI B'ETH.

Tenth Annual Convention of that Order Convened in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 24.--The tenth annual convention of the improved order of B'NAI B'ETH was begun here to-day. President Julius H. Wyman called the convention to order, and Rev. Dr. Raphael Tasker, opened the convention with prayer. The roll call showed one hundred and five delegates present, representing the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Illinois, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

President Wyman in his annual message recommended a number of changes in the endowment feature of the order.

A discussion of the advisability of allowing women to form lodges and become members of the order took up some time. The matter was brought up at last year's convention in New York when a committee was appointed to consider the matter. This committee made a favorable report on the proposition, but upon its being put to a vote to-day, it was lost. Officers for the ensuing year will be elected at to-morrow's session.

Meant to Cure but Killed.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.--Miss Lillian Templeton, of Brooklyn, is dead as the result of taking a prescription of a friend who meant to cure, not to kill. Her friend gave her a prescription which called for equal parts of spirits of camphor, pepper and cayenne, and a dose of four grains. The prescription was filled by the Bolton Drug Company. She took the medicine on Friday evening. Saturday morning she was found unconscious, bleeding at the nose and mouth. Physicians were called but their efforts were unavailing. Coroner Coates said to-night: "Twenty grains of laudanum is a large dose and generally is approached by giving gradually, increasing doses from three grains up to twenty. If the prescription contained four equal parts, then there must have been from forty to forty-five grains in the dose, and that is enough to kill anybody."

Murder and Robbery.

CINCINNATI, O., Jan. 24.--Ettore Fontanori, a Tyrolean, was arrested yesterday for murdering Mary Forpiana, an Italian, and robbing her of \$1,300, which represents the savings of forty years from the sale of fruit vending. Soon after Mrs. Forpiana was found yesterday in a dying condition and her chest broken open. Fontanori was arrested. It is now learned that Enrico De Bois, an Italian, laid the plans for the robbery and hired Fontanori for \$300 to break open the old woman's chest. De Bois was familiar with the premises. Fontanori did the job as directed. Mrs. De Bois to-day inquired at the police headquarters for her husband. Afterward Fontanori confessed.

Only the Fragments Found.

NICE, France, Jan. 24.--The fragments of a human body have been found on the railway near St. Laurent. With the remains there was found a torn bill of the Hotel Univers, of Nice. Only twenty centimes were found on the body. Inquiries show that the deceased was Mrs. L. Lund, a merchant of New York, and he is supposed to have committed suicide. His trunk bears numerous hotel marks, both of America and Europe.

Celebrated Novelist Dead.

DUBLIN, Jan. 24.--Mrs. Hungerford, ("The Duchesse," the novelist, is dead.

Steamship Movements.

NEW YORK--Arrived, La Gasconne, Havre.
Havre--Arrived, La Champagne, New York.
LIVERPOOL--Arrived 23rd; Pennland, Philadelphia, 24th; arrived; George, New York.
ATLANTA--Sailed, 23rd; Alameda, San Francisco.
QUEENSTOWN--Sailed, Umbria, (from Liverpool), New York.

FREEZING FIGURES

Indicated by the Thermometers All Over the Country.

THE NORTHWEST SUFFERS MOST

From the Cold Wave, the Mercury Falling as Low as Thirty Degrees Below Zero--High Winds and Heavy Snow in Prevail--All Railroads are Blocked by the Blizzard--Worst Storm of the Season in Dakota, Causing Heavy Losses to the Stockmen--Situation at Other Points.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 24.--The coldest weather of the winter thus far was experienced in this section last night and to-day, the mercury being away down in the minus figures, from twenty to thirty degrees below, thermometers varying in different parts of the city. To-night at 7 o'clock the weather bureau's official record in this city gave eighteen below, while other northwest stations reported as follows: Helena, fourteen below; Bismarck and Winnipeg, twenty-four below; Huron, twenty-four below and Duluth eighteen below.

Specials from Rochester, Minn., say that to-day was the coldest for many years, the thermometer at noon indicating twenty degrees below and severe cold was intensified by a twenty-five mile gale from the northwest. The mercury is falling steadily. Aberdeen, S. D., has not had a mail train from any direction since Friday night and indications are strong that the blockade will prove to be the worst yet experienced. No effort has been made to clear the roads for several days, because of continual wind, and the cuts are now full. The Milwaukee passenger train from the south is in a drift near Bonilla.

Bismarck, N. D., reports a severe blizzard prevailing all day, with mercury thirty-two below zero and a high wind blowing. It is the worst storm of the season for stockmen, and the losses will probably be heavy, owing to the low temperature. The first trains for the east for three days arrived to-day, but to-day's storm will cause a further blockade. It is doubtful if legislators can arrive in time for Tuesday's session.

THE COLD WAVE

Zero Weather May be Expected in This Latitude.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24.--The forecast of the weather bureau to-night says: The severe cold wave now extends as far east as the Ohio valley and southward to Texas, where the temperature has fallen from twenty to forty degrees in the past twenty-four hours. It is below freezing in Tennessee and Central Texas; it is below zero in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, and twenty degrees below zero over the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Light local snows are reported from southern New England and southwestward over the Ohio valley, Tennessee and northern Texas. The weather is generally fair in the northwest and the south Atlantic states. The indications are that the cold wave will extend eastward and southward over the Atlantic and gulf coasts Monday. The temperature will fall to near zero from Virginia northward, and freezing weather will extend southward to the gulf and South Atlantic coasts.

CHICAGO SHIVERING

From the Cold--Coldest Day in Twenty-five Years--Much Suffering.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.--According to the records of the weather bureau this was the coldest day in Chicago in twenty-five years. At no time since the Chicago station has been established has there been so low a maximum temperature recorded. It was a steady cold. There was a variation of about four degrees in the twelve hours from 6 o'clock in the morning until the same hour in the evening. At 8 o'clock to-night the signal service reported 12 below. That street it was several degrees below that.

The suffering among the poorer class is intense, and a number of cases of destitution were reported to the police. At Grand Crossing thirty-three families with eighty-six children were found in their poor hovels unable to care for themselves. Bars, noses and hands were whitened and benumbed by the cold. They were cared for and physicians summoned to render relief. In South Chicago five families were found actually freezing to death. These were also removed by the police to warmer quarters where proper treatment was given them. A number of other cases were found in other parts of the city.

To aid the poor on account of the extreme severity of the weather, the county coal contractor delivered 400 loads of coal to destitute families. This is the first time such a delivery has been made on Sunday. Food and clothing were also given out.

Up to 11 o'clock to-night there were between fifteen and twenty cases reported to the police of people being found in the streets suffering from frozen hands, feet, ears and noses. Of these two or three are in a serious condition. Only one death from cold was reported, that of a child.

By midnight the thermometer registered 17 degrees below, having dropped 5 degrees since 8 o'clock. The cold is made more intense as it is accompanied by a brisk sharp wind.

Below Zero.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 24.--A cold wave reached this vicinity to-night and the temperature at 8 o'clock was below zero with a downward tendency. There is not much snow and no interference with traffic is anticipated.

WATERLOO, Iowa, Jan. 24.--To-day was the coldest of the season. The mercury was twenty-eight degrees below zero this morning and fifteen below at noon. The railroads suffered from the snow and trains were late several hours on all railroads.

Big Snow Storm.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 24.--The Commercial-Tribune's special from Valparaiso, Ind., says: One of the worst storms ever known here visited this vicinity to-day. Sixteen inches of snow fell, drifting badly. Several trains are snow-bound. The thermometer registers fifteen below zero. To-day relief parties were sent out and many poor families were furnished fuel to-night.

Tennessee's Experience.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 24.--An intense cold wave has prevailed all day with a strong and bitterly cold wind blowing. Flurries of snow have also been experienced. To-night at 10 o'clock the local weather bureau reports 13 above zero and still falling.

A Norther Strikes Texas.

AUSTIN, Texas, 24.--A cold wave struck this section to-day and has been

increasing in velocity until to-night, when a drizzling rain began, which is freezing as it falls, covering everything with ice. Reports from stock ranges in the west of the state say that much apprehension of severe loss is felt as many herds are without shelter. A slight snow was reported this afternoon to the north of this city.

DALLAS, Texas, Jan. 24.--A genuine norther made its advent here early this morning and the mercury dropped from 46 to 16 degrees above zero and it is hourly growing colder. Snow is falling to-night and the indications are that winter weather has set in in earnest. Much suffering will result as great destitution prevails among the poorer classes, especially the negroes.

Michigan Catches It.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 24.--Michigan experienced the coldest weather of the winter to-day. To-night the temperature ranges from 6 degrees below zero in Detroit to 15 degrees below at Upper Peninsula points. It has ceased snowing at most points.

Has the City by the Throat.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 24.--The cold wave has this city by the throat to-day, the thermometer at the weather office registering 5 below zero at 7 o'clock this evening. The natural gas pressure was very low and as all residents depend upon it for fuel there was great suffering. The weather conditions are similar throughout the state. At Anderson it is 7 degrees below, and at Warsaw 10.

Chilly at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 24.--The cold wave swept down upon Cleveland last night and the temperature has been falling ever since. At 7 o'clock this evening it was found to be below zero and promised to go much lower before morning. There has been considerable fine snow, but not enough to impede travel.

FIRE PLUGS FROZEN

And the Delay in Getting Water Results in a Disastrous Fire.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.--The Northwestern Stove Repair Company's factory, 225 to 237 West Twelfth street, was entirely destroyed by fire to-night. When the fire engines arrived it was found that the water in every fire plug in the neighborhood had been frozen, and fifteen minutes elapsed before a stream could be brought to bear on the flames. During this time the fire spread with such alarming rapidity that the residents in the vicinity of the fire began to move their household effects out of their homes. Finally when water had been turned on the flames enveloped the building. The firemen, however, kept the fire confined to the stove factory. The damage done to adjoining buildings was entirely by water.

The Northwestern Stove Repair Company is owned by Robert L. and Ralph S. Greenlee. They place the damage on the contents of their establishment at \$200,000, and on the building at \$125,000. The exact amount of insurance is not known, but it is thought that the loss is almost entirely covered.

Three firemen and a watchman employed by the stove company were injured during the fire.

Fire and Frost.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Jan. 24.--Fire this morning partially destroyed the boys' dormitory of the Christian Home Orphanage. One hundred boys were sleeping in the building when the fire broke out. All were rescued. The firemen had a terrible combat with the cold. Chief Templeton is badly frozen and Captain Auley and Driver Jones are also laid off by reason of frost-bitten extremities while attending the fire. Damage to the building \$3,000, with no insurance.

Convict Burned to Death.

AUBURN, N. Y., Jan. 24.--Warden Stout, of the prison here, gave out a statement to the press to-day of the burning to death of a convict in the prison last night. The unfortunate man was James McTear, an Elmira transfer, sentenced from New York county for a term of five years, Jan. 7, 1894, for grand larceny, second degree. McTear had smuggled naphtha to his cell on the fifth gallery of the south wing, which he was using for cooking purposes. About 5:30 p. m. an explosion occurred and the guards and waiters immediately went to the scene, but McTear was enveloped in flames and before assistance could be rendered, he was so seriously burned that the efforts of the physicians summoned proved to be unavailing, and he died a few hours later. McTear's time would have expired in March next.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

The Situation Not Nearly so Distressing as Reported.

(Copyright, 1897, by the Associated Press.) LONDON, Jan. 24.--The special representative of the Associated Press, who is traveling through the famine districts in India, accompanying the government's party of inspection, sends a dispatch to-day from Kolhapur.

He says that the reports which have been sent to England and the United States of the acute famine said to exist in the southern Maharajah states have been exaggerated, so far as his observation has extended. A scarcity of grain does, indeed, prevail in the extreme eastern portion of this region, but the people there were able to escape want by migrating, most of them, to the fertile Kancon plains and elsewhere, where the shortness of the grain supply is not felt.

Rice is also plentiful and means and measures for the relief of the hungry are pronounced adequate where needed. The Maharajah, in an interview with the Associated Press representative on the prospects of his people escaping starvation, said that his state expects a famine every five years and were therefore not taken unawares or unprovided for when it came. They were prepared, he said, to spend five lacs of rupees for relief in his territory.

The British resident was also interviewed and confirmed the statements of the Maharajah as to the situation, adding that the relief organization was most efficient in the Bombay presidency and that the difficulties from famine and of securing and distributing relief were lighter than in former times. The resident summed up his views as follows: "My observation as to the situation, however, the whole western side, that the famine is not severe there, though it may increase towards June. But in the